

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, IN, BG, AF

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON GOP FOREIGN POLICY AND DOMESTIC AFFAIREY

SUMMARY: IN PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY INTERVIEW, BHUTTO TOOK QUIET SATISFACTION OVER RESULTS OF LAHORE SUMMIT AND EXPRESSED OPTIMISM OVER IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS. HE RENEWED HIS INVITATION TO MRS. GANDHI TO MEET HIM IN PAKISTAN AND SAID HE HOPED DEVOTE MORE TIME TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AFTER FINAL RESOLUTION OF POW PROBLEM WITH BANGLADESH AND INDIA. HE REPEATED ASSURANCES OF NO FURTHER NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATELY-OWNED BUSINESSES AND SUGGESTED MUCH POSTPONED SPEECH ON BALUCHISTAN HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM IN THAT PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WAS INTERVIEWED BY THREE LOCAL JOURNALISTS IN RECORDING RELEASED TO RADIO AND TELEVISION ON PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL DAY, MARCH 23. BHUTTO GAVE REASONED REVIEW OF PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS AND PROBLEMS WITH SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBORS. WHILE HE SAID NOTHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW, TENOR OF HIS REMARKS LEADS US TO SUMMARIZE HIGHLIGHTS

AS POSSIBLY INDICATIVE OF BHUTTO'S CURRENT MOOD - RELAXED AND SELF-CONFIDENT.

2. ISLAMIC SUMMIT AND NON-ALIGNMENT: BHUTTO SAID CONFERENCE HAD INCREASED POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. IN HIS VIEW, VIABLE POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN MUSLIM STATES WAS PRE-REQUISITE FOR ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. GOP, HE SAID, PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO KUALA LUMPUR CONFERENCE OF MUSLIM FOREIGN MINISTERS AND TO APRIL 9 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING PRINCIPLES AGREED TO AT LAHORE. ON NON-ALIGNMENT, BHUTTO SAID THAT THIS TERM HAD BECOME MEANINGLESS AS ALL BACKWARD COUNTRIES WERE FACED WITH COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST EXPLOITATION.

3. BANGLADESH: BHUTTO SAID HE HAD GRANTED RECOGNITION TO BANGLADESH "WITH HEAVY HEART" ALTHOUGH HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT DECISION WAS CORRECT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. INDIA: BHUTTO SAID PAKISTAN WANTED "MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS" WITH GOI. PAKISTAN'S POSITION THAT RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SHOULD PRECEDE DISCUSSION ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS TRADE WAS BASED ON LOGIC. HOWEVER, IF GOI INSISTED ON ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE SUCH ISSUES AS TRADE PRIOR TO RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES, PAKISTAN WOULD ACQUIESCE. HE SAID THAT MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MRS. GANDHI WAS "NECESSARY" ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING APRIL 5 TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS IN DELHI. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD INVITED MRS. GANDHI TO PAKISTAN AND HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK SUMMIT MEETING WHICH HE BELIEVED GOI ALSO WAS "DESIROUS" OF HOLDING. HE STATED THAT TRIPARTITE MEETING WAS CONFINED TO SOLUTION OF 195 PAK POW PROBLEM. HOWEVER, BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA COULD BE HELD OUTSIDE TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS. (ISLAMABAD 2179 CONTAINS MORE COMPLETE EXPOSITION OF GOP VIEWS ON INDO-PAK BILATERALS.) BHUTTO TOOK DIG AT GOI DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVING THAT INDIANS SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS "LAY AT HEART OF DEFENSE PREPARATION AND STRENGTH". ASIDE FROM THIS REFERENCE, HIS LANGUAGE AND TONE RE INDIA WAS CONCILIATORY.

5. AFGHANISTAN: WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON AMBASSADOR PAZHWAK'S SPEECH AT LAHORE MEETING, BHUTTO SAID HOSTILE PROPAGANDA WOULD SERVE NEITHER PAKISTAN NOR AFGHANISTAN.

HE SAID HE INTENTIONALLY DID NOT REPORT GAZHWAK'S ALLEGATIONS FOR SAKE OF HARMONY AT CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS CONVENED TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND NOT EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES. HE REITERATED THAT GOP POLICY CALLED FOR REMOVAL OF ALL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND HE HOPED THAT HE COULD GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AFTER RESOLUTION OF POW PROBLEM WITH BANGLADESH AND INDIA. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD CALLED ON AMBASSADOR PAZHWAK IN LAHORE ALTHOUGH NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO BY PROTOCOL IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE HIS DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOA.

6. DOMESTIC AFFAIRS: BHUTTO REPEATED EARLIER ASSURANCES THAT NO ADDITIONAL NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISES WOULD TAKE PLACE. ON BALUCHISTAN, HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD EITHER MAKE PUBLIC SPEECH OR ISSUE PRESS STATEMENT BY APRIL 10 WHICH WOULD SHOW THAT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN BALUCHISTAN HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

(COMMENT: DURING MARCH, BHUTTO'S PARTY WON THREE BY-ELECTIONS IN BALUCHISTAN GIVING GOVERNMENT MAJORITY IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND, IPSO FACTO, POLITICAL SOLUTION OF SORTS. SEE KARACHI 613.) BYROADE

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